

Other Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Supplement

AIDS Education Piece Causes Controversy

by Jeff Harrington

HALIFAX (CUP) -- The mass media have "missed the boat" in the brouhaha over a safer-sex article published in a Newfoundland student newspaper, say the paper's supporters.

"It's really unfortunate the media pounced on this and defined it immediately as being about offending people -- rather than as a health education issue," said Gary Kinsman, a sociology professor at Memorial University who has done extensive research on AIDS education issues.

The February 15 article, called "A gay men's guide to erotic safer sex," was part of the annual lesbian and gay supplement published by The Muse at Memorial University in St. John's. It used explicit language and erotic scenarios to show gay men how to enjoy sex while reducing the risk of spreading HIV -- the virus thought to cause AIDS. It was accompanied by a suggestive graphic taken from a pamphlet on oral sex produced by the AIDS Committee of Toronto.

Kinsman said the media's fascination with the various negative reactions to the article -- rather than its intent -- has created a "hysterical" atmosphere which could stifle crucial discussion about AIDS education.

"This is a brilliant illustration of how the homophobia in society is preventing us from doing the effective safe-sex and AIDS education we have to do."

Kinsman said community-based AIDS groups in New York, San Francisco, Toronto and Vancouver have been highly successful in reducing rates of HIV transmission among men -- but only by using the approach taken by the article in The Muse. To work, the message must be explicit, gay- and sex-positive, actually show people how to have safe sex and use language appropriate to the community it is aimed at.

"This is the type of work that succeeds. This is what works," said Kinsman.

After the supplement appeared, Memorial president Arthur May told the St. John's Evening Telegram the article was "pornographic" and suggested the Feb. 15 edition could raise tuition fees by hurting alumni donations. Newspapers and radio shows from as far away as Montreal

called The Muse after Memorial's student council said it would establish a publishing board to oversee the paper's editorial content. The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary's statement that it would launch an investigation made The Globe and Mail's national edition. In St. John's, The Sunday Express advised the lesbian and gay communities to "take care not to lose sight of their longer-term social goals."

"What long-term goal are they referring to -- that we should book funeral parlors?" asked Padraic Brake, the gay rights activist who co-wrote the controversial article.

Brake, a student at Memorial, said explicit, gay-positive education has been proven effective in study after study. He said the article was a "replication of safe-sex material used in other North American cities," based on the guidelines of the Canadian AIDS Society.

The national umbrella group's booklet on safe-sex education urges that "a variety of specifically tailored terms be used for the many different needs of people, in their own erotic vocabularies."

"It wasn't meant to sensationalize, nor to shock anyone. It was to communicate directly to gay men in the language that they use," said Brake, who estimates there are over 2,000 lesbians and gay men among students, staff and faculty at Memorial.

On Feb. 18, supporters of The Muse held a press conference in an effort to focus the media's gaze on the health angle of the story.

"Mr. May seems to have lost sight of the fact that pornography is sexual imagery which presents a human subject as a sexual object for the use of the viewer," said Theresa Walsh, representing the St. John's Status of Women Council.

Walsh said May was trying to throw up a smokescreen.

"This article -- and the accompanying photograph -- depicts a sexuality which is mutually pleasurable and entered into freely, not one linked to violence, humiliation or ridicule," she said.

Robin Whitaker, a Memorial student and former Muse editor, said the article has been used by some people as an excuse to gay-bash.

"AIDS is the issue here and hiding the fact that people are sexually active and the ways they are sexually active will only

perpetuate the problem," she said.

Biology and Women's Studies professor Joan Scott said the university should support the article.

"Art May is only exciting homophobia on the campus when he should be squelching it," she said.

"At cinemas, we are exposed to an avalanche of movies that are graphic, explicit and full of coercive sex and violence against women. The (gay/lesbian) supplement is completely free of coercive sex," Scott said.

May retracted his linkage of tuition fee hikes and the "pornographic" article the next day.

Muse editor Dawn Mitchell said that despite the news conference, none of the "zillions" of journalists pestering Muse staff members seem to care about AIDS education -- the point of the article in the first place. Their interests: "shock value, the police investigation, the (student council) and May's comments."

Gay Soldier Takes Forces To Court

by Stephen Hendrie

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Every cloud has a lavender lining.

While the Canadian Forces have been off playing soldier in the Persian Gulf, Corporal Derrick Dwyer remains frozen in his position as an administrative clerk in a supply unit at a Montreal base.

He's been in limbo since he decided three years ago to stop hiding the fact that he's gay.

The military reacted to Dwyer's admission of homosexuality during a routine check by cancelling his security clearance and telling him to quit. Dwyer decided to fight. He went public with his story, and the media attention helped to have his security clearance reinstated.

But he remains stuck in his job as a clerk. Dwyer feels he's being discriminated against because of his sexual orientation, and he's taking the military to court.

Enter EGALE (Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere), an Ottawa-based group designed to help gays and lesbians through the legal process.

"Corporal Dwyer called us two years ago. He didn't know what to do anymore," said Les McAfee, president of EGALE.

"It's totally amazing -- they've blown it all out of proportion. On TV, we were put ahead of the Gulf War and a possible outbreak of meningitis," she said.

Kinsman cited the backlash over the gay-positive article as an example of attempts by government, religious groups and the mass media to suppress information about safe sex.

"The reality is, you have to decide whether you're going to allow HIV to spread because of your 'moral' perspective, or whether you're going to seriously grapple with explicit education," said Kinsman.

"Hopefully, more people will realize we have to deal with this issue, even though it may offend a few people. In many ways, this is a health emergency," he said.

The Muse is one of about a dozen university newspapers in Canada which publish annual lesbian and gay supplements. So far, at least three of these -- the Other Press, the Ubyssy at the University of British Columbia, and the Uniter at the University

of Winnipeg -- have reprinted the article in support of The Muse.

Papers running the controversial article have been harassed by their student councils. The Uniter's editorial staff were asked to hand in their resignations last week. The Cord at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, had their locks changed and their paper shut down by student council after running the article. And the Dal Gazette at Dalhousie University in Halifax has had copies of the issue containing the article taken off the stands, and are facing threats of closure.

The Other Press is autonomous and cannot be shut down by the DCSS.

The Link at Concordia University and The Varsity at the University of Toronto plan to follow suit next week.

Members of The Muse staff have yet to hear anything from the police.

note: the article in question has been reprinted, for everyone's benefit, on page 4 of the supplement.

base where I work have come in and told me they support me."

Among the military members who dropped by Dwyer's desk were some gay and lesbian colleagues, still in the closet, who confided in him.

Les McAfee said Dwyer will need support as the legal process becomes more intense. The army is expected to mount a strong opposition, for fear that a victory for Dwyer would mean de facto Charter prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation. This would be a significant victory for the gay rights movement in Canada. "It would also be significant because the military is arguing it is out of the realm of human rights legislation, and out of the realm of charter legislation, says McAfee.

"They feel exempt because they're national security. Part of their argument is that gays and lesbians would be outrageous to morale, and destroy effectiveness in the armed forces. It's very similar to the arguments used to keep women out of the forces 20 years ago. Just replace women with gay, and it's the same argument."

If he wins his case, Dwyer knows there will still be discrimination, but he doesn't think it will just be a paper victory.

"It will open the doors for other homosexuals to be open in the forces, and for those outside to openly apply for positions with the forces."

McAfee said court cases are only one item on the gay agenda.

"Once we get a couple of victories in the human rights area, we'll move on to another phase -- educating the public that gays and lesbians exist as legitimate individuals, and families."

Little Sisters Bookstore Sues Canada Customs Over Erotic Material

by Graham Cameron

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- Citing a long history of unwarranted discrimination against importing gay and lesbian literature, the B.C. Civil Liberties Association and Vancouver's Little Sisters bookstore have filed a co-action lawsuit against Canada Customs.

Labelling the restriction of written material as the "purest

form of censorship," BCCLA president Philip Bryden said Canada Customs regularly seizes books destined for Little Sisters.

Bryden, who teaches law at the University of British Columbia, recognizes that under Canadian custom tariff laws, books that are obscene may be seized. But he argues that the way the laws are applied violates a person's right to free

expression under the Canadian Charter of Rights.

The present system, he said, is based on an unacceptable "reverse onus procedure." In most cases the onus is on the Crown to prove guilt, but in these actions it up to defendants to prove materials are not obscene.

Challenging this "assumption of guilt" bias of the Canada Customs regulations

will be a central element of the BCCLA and Little Sisters case, according to Bryden.

"In the way that they're applied, there is a discrimination against those who want to read gay and lesbian literature and this is a violation of the equality provisions of the Charter," he said.

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How Do I Tell

The attempt to portray the experience of being a Lesbian from an insider's point of view as well as discuss some of the oppression has presented more of the sorrows than the joy of being a lesbian. Hopefully, it's clear that the sorrows need not be there, since they're the result of interaction with a damn hostile environment.

Understandably, some people may ask "Why come out, if it's so much trouble?" And well they might ask. But then, why continue to be of Asian descent, to have blue eyes, or to be Black? Because it's natural.

Why try to conform to some non-Gay image when it's an impossible affront to integrity in the first place? It's unnatural for us. And the unhappy consequences of such efforts have been a part of our struggle to come to terms with ourselves.

But, what is so wonderful about being a lesbian? It's impossible to generalize. I like knowing that women are potential love partners rather than competitors or enemies. I like walking down the street and exchanging a glance and a smile with another Lesbian, acknowledging that we are related and we know it. I like the camp humor that we have developed as a means of spotlighting the insanity of most convention, the hidden oppression, and our ability to laugh and keep afloat in spite of it all.

But one of the greatest joys of being a Lesbian is that it permits you to be a full human being. In other words, by definition, you don't fit society's picture of the real woman.

Being a Gay person isn't anti, it's pro. We've learned to appreciate individual differences the hard way. We have a stake in everyone's freedom because it's the only way we will be assured of our own. We've been hated because we're people who dared to follow our own truth in times and places where our love has been forbidden.

Gay people have had to develop a benign, self-protective alertness that can be viewed as a positive form of "paranoia." This "paranoia" is benign because it acts only as an early warning system that helps us to make social adjustments that smooth social interactions. It's not the malignant sort of paranoia that keeps us tense with the suspicion that the world is out to get and makes social intercourse tempestuous or impossible.

I can still remember the day I walked through that door, my mind had a million excuses running through it.

"Why did I have to tell them anyways. They don't need to know. Do they? Later, I can tell them later."

But I knew that it was time to share it with them, I could not be myself, and continue to live the false life that others wanted for me.

I'm ready to grow and do everything that I've kept inside that's me. But who is the real me? All those years of hiding and lying have left me with an empty void.

Am I still the same person that I knew, Would my parents still love me? But, I finally realized to myself that I hadn't changed, and if they really loved me, that their love for me could not simply be tossed aside. It was me that they cared for.

Dear Mom and Dad,

I hope that this letter will help you to understand that I love you both dearly, and that I wouldn't do anything to hurt you.

When I was younger you taught me not to steal, to be fair, and to be honest. So now I must be honest with you ... I'm gay.

The letter would never be finished, and never sent. I would send them the letter would be the biggest and the cruel cop-out. But where, how, and when would I tell them? A book that I had read about coming out, had said to me sure that I didn't build up a situation too much. I wanted everything to be just right. The next couple of days were spent just trying to decide just what it was that I could tell them. The first it was going to be a restaurant, good food and a pleasant atmosphere. But I told them there, then they would all be worried about keeping our voices down and maybe not even able to talk.

Plan #2

Using food as a central theme was a great idea. About a block and a half away is a small take out chicken place, so I went and bought a barrel of chicken, some potato salad, plastic forks — the whole n

Homosexuality Is

How many times have you read or heard somebody mutter the words that homosexuality is not just sex? Every time I hear this phrase being espoused by so called liberal minded individuals who are either very gay positive or are gay themselves, I get very angry.

If being then what is why they say and again tired of being intellectually intolerant or who see homosexual de misinformed homosexuality and intellectual mirrors heter

Just as st and out of l other in a m manner, an happiness w a joyful oc Bisexual peo same emotion or cares fo irrelevant wh sister or bro girlfriend, or being or male feelings one unique to th involved.

Gay men women, just as women. Simi

Being Lesbian

Most of all, I suppose, from the list that could be drawn of the pleasures of being a Lesbian, I like being able to be myself, to respect differences in people, and to look on the human world with a sense of compassion.

It's not easy to be a Gay person in our society today, though it's easier than it was a decade or two ago. Once you realize you're Gay, you know that you're in for plenty of pain and struggle. You face discrimination and prejudice from people who supposedly love you. The emotional pressures can be enormous. But all of this is not due to the fact that you're Gay, but the prejudice and bigotry of a society that has unthinkably used minorities for scapegoating.

In spite of the enormous weight placed on us by an oppressive environment, it's possible to join hands with people who appreciate Gay people, especially other gay people today.

We are released by our Lesbian identity, and celebrate the pain of the past and the potential of the future.

Lesbian Week

The day was sunny and bright. We stood in the middle of Commercial Drive, held hands and marched in support of lesbian rights and gay pride.

"We're here, we're queer. We're proud of it, get used to it" and "Hey, hey, ho, ho, homophobia has got to go" shook the shops on the drive. My friend said to me it felt good to be that "out" in the open, defiantly kissing each other in front of the world.

It was a great day. We rocked the windows of Joe's Cafe with our voices. Happy International Lesbian week.

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My Parents?

yards. This was not the fancy dinner that I had planned, but it would be fun, and they would not be a bit suspicious of the coming events. They were both due to come home from work at 5:30, and generally they are not late, and today they did not stray from that ritual.

Their car rolled into the driveway and before I realized that it was them, I heard footsteps making their way up the worn front steps.

As I waited for them, my mind constantly hashed over the many intricate things that I had thought of saying. But I was suddenly awakened by the sound of the front door opening.

I quickly ran to light the candles on the table. I wanted everything to be perfect. By the time we had sat down to dinner, it became quite noticeable that between the smell of the chicken and flickering of the long tapered candles that their long tired faces had become fresh and joyful.

When the last drumstick had been eaten and all the plates that were laden with many bones and white forks were finally pushed aside, I realized that it was now or never.

The air was suddenly filled with silence as I started in with my big announcement. "Mom and Dad, there is something I want to tell you." My throat started to seize up as I realized my parents were listening to my every syllable. I pushed on again quickly knowing there was no turning back. "I want to tell you that..." Their eyes had blown up into large spheres as they sat perched upon their two chairs like two determined judges ready to deliver a verdict upon me. The last two words fell off my tongue, "I'm Gay."

As the words took hold upon them, I sat waiting for their first reactions. But I somehow knew that I had reached the point that even though I cared deeply for these people, I was the one who was my own judge

and jury. Their feelings, whether they were positive or negative, didn't matter. I like myself, every piece of who I am.

"Oh no, what does this mean? I'm not suppose to have these feelings. I'm suppose to be gay, I think. Oh, maybe I'm bisexual then. Hm, now this makes sense, I think."

But you are not sure. So then you start reading up about bisexuality. There isn't much available but you find something.

Then you start you talking to people in the gay community. This confuses you even more. You are told that there is no such thing as bisexuality and you are just fence sitting.

"Make up your mind," they say. "You're either gay or straight."

Then you meet other bisexuals. Now you know that you are not alone. They feel the same way. Now you finally understand.

So now you know its alright to have a relationship with the opposite sex. So you get involved with someone. But here come the hard part. Having to come out to them. Now that is hard. You can't deal with the fact that they might reject you. So you run away from it rather then dealing with it.

Then you fall in love with someone of the same sex who is also bisexual. But they are in love or lust with somebody of the opposite sex.

This is why being bisexual is not easy. In fact it's really hard. But when you're comfortable with your sexuality you can deal with it. Why do people have to complicate sexuality? We should love and be with whom ever we please without people imposing absolutes.

Being Bisexual

Being Bisexual is not easy, in fact it's very hard. It's easy enough to come to terms with the fact that you are physically and sometimes emotionally attracted to someone of the same sex. Then comes the hard part.

You start questioning yourself about what this means.

"Does this mean that I am gay? Oh no, this means I can't be with someone of the opposite sex?"

Then you start reading up on all the stuff about homosexuality. All lot of the stuff you find in the school library is outdated garbage written by heterosexuals. You begin to believe that this is the way you are and there is no "cure" for it.

Then you meet someone of the opposite gender and you really like them.

Nobody Knows About Me

Hi there, I'm bisexual. Nobody knows that I am bi or even that I might be. My best friend doesn't know, my work mates, my class mates and my parents don't know. This can be really difficult because it means that I have to deny who I really am.

I hurts me that I cannot be fully honest with my best friend. I fear that he would only think that we are friends because I am attracted to him. I'm not though. To me he's only my best friend, someone to go out for beers with, someone to tell my problems to. However, he is openly homophobic. I know that if I ever told him the truth, he would not want to be my friend. That hurts.

A man walks down the street. I think "Hm, he's not bad

looking", but I tell no-one else. I am afraid to walk up to that person and ask him or try and hint at him that I might be interested. If you are heterosexual, and you see a beautiful woman walk down the street, don't you usually turn to whoever you're with at the time and comment on her? Try and imagine how alone you would feel if you constantly had to keep that inside because it is unacceptable to show attraction to a member of the opposite sex.

I met this man, and I fell in love with him. He is heterosexual, I am bisexual. He does not know that I am in love with him or that I am bisexual. This person is oblivious to me and my emotions. This hurts me. This may turn some people off, or offend them or even (god

forbid) disgust you. But you have to try and look at it from my point of view. I have this unprofessed love for a person. I have to go for the rest of my life with this love, or at least until I am ready to "come out." If I had this love for a woman, and for some reason, say religion, I could not profess my love for her, it would be considered romantic and tragic. But just because people have a fear of gays or lesbians or bisexuals, I cannot profess my love and I live in constant fear of being discovered.

Since high school, I've known that I have been bisexual. I wanted desperately to go out with some with some of the girls that had been in my grade, but I have also had some enormous

(Not) Just Sex

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people fall in re for each comforting d tears of he midst of Gay and erience the n one loves her, it is ey are your yfriend or ale human being. The ences are vo people

ften love t men love y women

can often love men emotionally, just as do straight women.

However, and this is where the only difference exists, gay men are predominatly attracted to other men, gay women are predominatly attracted to other women. One could then say that "gay is just sex." But as I stated before, sex is not bad or wrong.

If sexual attraction with another consenting adult is bad, then would't all forms of sexual attraction be equally wrong? I don't refer to a moral or religious sense of right or wrong, but to a sense of equity and humanity with which each of us are born. It is my wish to help germinate and foster these seeds of humanity, tolerance, and understanding.

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A Gay Man's Guide To Erotic Safer Sex

by Patrick Barnholden
and Padraic Brake

WARNING: These guidelines contain explicit language. If you can't cope with reality, don't read on.

Fear of AIDS is no reason to decrease the amount of sex you have or the number of sex partners you have. As gay men and lesbians, we have adapted our sexual practices to take into account the risk factors of the various ways we live out our passions.

HIV is the virus that is thought to cause AIDS and it can be passed from one person to another during sex through the exchange of cum or blood. But remember, since we learned about how to protect ourselves from HIV we've had years to make safe sex exciting, fun and worth staying awake at night for. It is not the number of people or the kind of people you have sex with that puts you at risk -- it is specific high risk activities -- activities you can easily avoid.

Anal intercourse with a condom (a lower risk activity)

As I woke up I could feel Mark's hard cock pressing into my ass and was immediately reminded of last night. My first move was to reach down beside the bed and grab the last remaining condom.

Opening the package as I could feel Mark smearing my ass with K-Y I could only think of the ecstasy I would feel within minutes. I put the rubber on the tip of his beautiful cock and squeezed the tip and rolled it down to the base. Squirting more K-Y onto his cock he slipped into my already lubricated ass.

The eroticization of safe sex has been crucial in the efforts of our community to educate ourselves. Telling our stories of wild safe sex serves to make us all aware of the myriad possibilities for lust and passion in our lives. Anyone can become infected with HIV but anyone can also play safe. Learning how to use condoms properly and assessing the risk factors of various activities is all you need to know to play safe.

Mutual masturbation (a no risk activity)

I lay on my back as Fred sat across my hips, his limp cock resting on my abdomen. I reached my left hand up to his left nipple as my right hand took hold of his cock and balls. Within seconds I could feel his cock hardening in my hand. I slowly worked my hand up and down his shaft, accelerating my actions and pinching his nipples as I worked to make him cum. Soon I heard the telltale sounds from deep within his throat and knew that I was about to feel his cum squirting all across my chest.

When choosing a condom always choose latex -- you can use either lubricated or non-lubricated but always use additional water-based lubricant such as K-Y jelly or

Lubafax. One size fits all but before you roll the condom down. It never hurts to practice Trojan now has a large sized one

when eating out a woman. They are available at some drugstores and at dental suppliers. Condoms can also be cut up one side and used in the same manner.

Unprotected oral sex on a woman during her period

Unprotected oral sex on a man (cocksucking) with or without swallowing cum

Fellatio without a condom and swallowing cum (a low risk activity)

I had heard Raghu's message on the answering machine very clearly, "I'll be over around 10 and suck your cock within the first 3 minutes." Raghu never wasted time. The doorbell rang at 10:04 -- I had thought he would wait at least until the door was closed before he went down on his knees and found his way into my pants. Before I was even finished my hellos his mouth was filled with my swelling cock. Looking down and seeing his head move up and down and feeling his tongue circle my cock I felt at home once again. Raghu speeded up and slowed down his actions several times as he brought me to the point of explosion. "Ohhh, I'm gonna cum now Raghu" I moaned. He kept his lips tightly around me as my cum shot down his throat.

Here are guidelines for assessing the risk of different activities.

HIGH RISK OF HIV TRANSMISSION

Anal intercourse (ass fucking) without a condom

Vaginal intercourse without a condom

Sharing sex toys (dildoes etc.) without thorough cleaning or condoms

Any activities where there is contact from one bloodstream to another

LOWER RISK OF HIV TRANSMISSION

Anal or vaginal intercourse with a condom

LOW RISK OF HIV TRANSMISSION

French kissing

Drinking pee

Oral/anal contact (rimming)

Eating shit

Giving or getting head (cocksucking) with a condom

Getting head without a condom

Giving head without a condom, no ejaculation

Oral sex on a woman without a dental dam outside her period

Oral sex with a dental dam

Patrick Barnholden is a gay AIDS activist who recently moved to St John's and Padraic Brake is a gay rights activist at Memorial University.

Oliver Sipple

Oliver Sipple. Name probably means nothing to most of you. Oliver Sipple died several springs ago. We are approaching the anniversary of his death. Time gave him a small obituary. He died alone.

Sipple's passing was tragic. Tragic because he, a Vietnam vet, had saved President Ford's life. Sipple, if he were "straight" probably would have been a national hero. Oliver Sipple was gay. The U.S. doesn't recognize homosexuality as a quality that heroes possess. Too bad. Oliver Sipple was a hero. He risked his life for another. He stopped an assassination. He was ostracized.

Oliver Sipple, may you find yourself among friends now. Bless you.



for the man with a big ego.

When putting on the condom you can squeeze some lubricant into the tip. Always squeeze the air out of the tip

on your own (or with a friend) a few times before you actually fuck with one.

Dental dams are pieces of latex rubber that act as a barrier

The Heterosexual Questionnaire

1] What do you think caused your heterosexuality?

2] When and how did you first decide you were heterosexual?

3] Is it possible your heterosexuality stems from a neurotic fear of the same sex?

4] If you've never slept with a person of the same sex, is it possible that all you need is a good gay lover?

5] To whom have you disclosed your heterosexual tendencies? How did they react?

6] Why do you heterosexuals feel compelled to seduce others into your lifestyle?

7] Why do you insist on flaunting your heterosexuality? Can't you just be what you are and keep it quiet?

8] Would you want your children to be heterosexual, knowing the problems they'd face?

9] A disproportionate majority of child molesters are heterosexuals. Do you consider it safe to expose your children to heterosexual teachers?

10] Even with all the societal support marriage receives, the divorce rate is spiralling. Why are there so few stable relationships among heterosexuals?

11] Why do heterosexuals place so much emphasis on sex?

12] Considering the menace of overpopulation, how could the human race survive if everyone were heterosexual like you?

13] Could you trust a heterosexual therapist to be objective?

14] How can you become a whole person if you limit yourself to a compulsive, exclusive heterosexuality, and fail to develop your natural, healthy, homosexual potential?

15] There seem to be very few happy heterosexuals. Techniques have been developed which enable you to change if you really want to. Have you considered aversion therapy?

Other Arts and Review

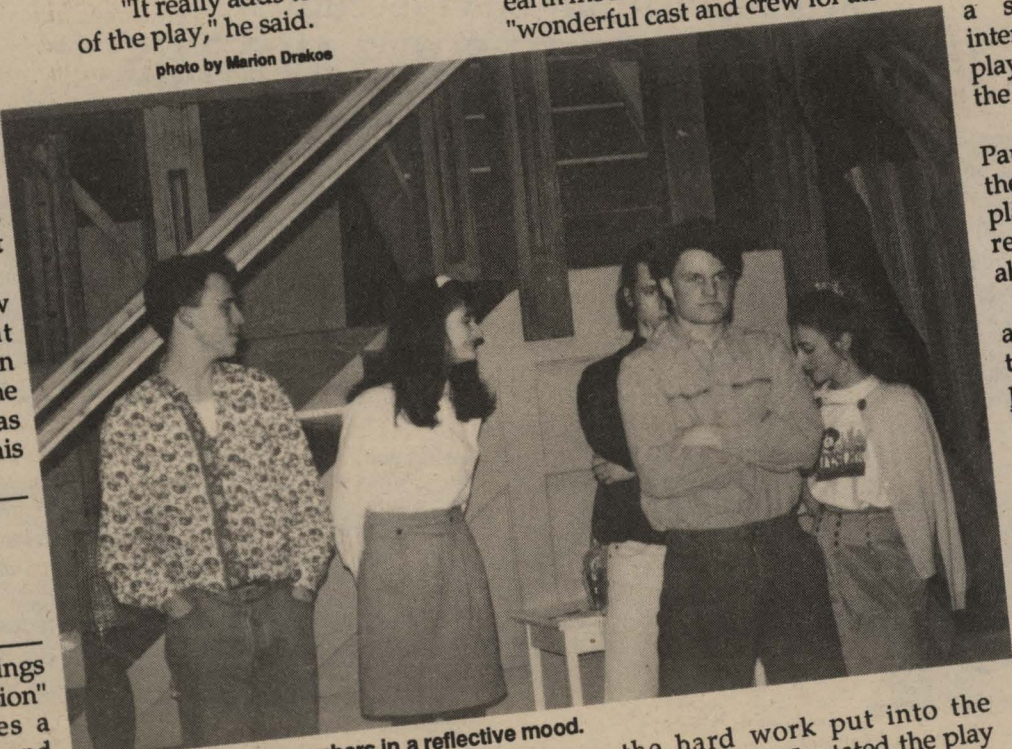
Black Comedy -- Kinda' Groovy

"The Play's the Thing":
William Shakespeare—Elizabethan
Playwright
"Its all Kinda' Groovy":
Michelle Ainsworth-----Black
Comedy Cast Member

Black Comedy, the Douglas
College Theatre Department's
Mainstage production for this
Spring is written by English
writer Peter Shaffer, who also
penned the contemporary
classic "Equus" and of course,
Amadeus, upon which the hit
film was based.
The play's director, Drew
Young, is enthusiastic about
doing the show, which is set in
1965 London, a setting which he
believes is important and was
one of the deciding factors in his
choosing the play.
Black Comedy
Directed by: Drew Young
Douglas College Performing Arts
Theatre
March 15-17 and 19-23.
previewed by: Haroon A. Khan

The eye-popping set for
Black Comedy was designed by
Karen Bright. Head Carpenter
Chris Olson exuded over the
mostly natural (or natural
looking) wood set.
"It really adds to the realism
of the play," he said.

photo by Marion Drakos



Black Comedy cast members in a reflective mood.

1965 marked the beginnings
of the "free love and expression"
movement, and it makes a
setting ripe with dramatic and
comedic possibilities. The play
is essentially a Chaplinesque
farce, according to Young.
The majority of the play is
set during a blackout, and when
the power goes out confusion
reigns -- hence the title.
But the play also delves into
the darker side of the era, with
its violence, hate, and racism,
and that side of the characters,
warts and all. Communicating
all of this to the audience in the
form of a farce is the play's
biggest challenge. but the
director and cast both feel it can
be done.

I recently had the
opportunity to speak with the
stars of Black Comedy. All are
1st and 2nd year Theatre
students at Douglas College and
they all had a great deal to say.
It was a strange but... groovy
experience. Read on.
Brendan Richardson, a first
year Theatre student in his first
major D.C. theatre production,
playing Colonel Melkett, waxes
poetic as he describes Black
Comedy.
"There are few words
available in our tragically
limited English language that

could do justice to such a lively,
evocative piece of theatre," he
said. After that fit of
eloquence, Richardson stated he
was excited about simply being
in the play.
Steve Park, Harold in the
play, was in a more down to
earth mood when he praised the
"wonderful cast and crew for all

Suzanne Taylor, who plays
Brindsley's upper class fiancée
Carol, found the rehearsal
process intensely valuable.
"I've learned so much
during rehearsals....I'll be sad
when its all over with.."
Suzanne, the cast's resident
Beatlemaniac, is also happy with
the play's 'soundtrack', which
includes "Can't buy Me Love" --
a song whose thread is
interwoven in the fibre of the
play, along with other songs of
the period.

Michelle Ainsworth and
Paula Hatton, who round out
the female cast members of the
play, as Miss Furnival and Clea
respectively are also excited
about Black Comedy.
"It's all kinda' groovy" was
all I could get out of them before
they left to rehearse. It was
presumably a groovy one,
because I couldn't reach them
for further comment..

Cameron Forsyth, a 2nd
year theatre student who plays
Schuppanzigh, is excited to
work with director Drew
Young. Cameron also
contemplated his experience at
the College.

He began to speak, saying
he'd learned a lot in his past 2
years, when he broke down in
mock tears and said he couldn't
go on any further. He then
joined Michelle, Paula and the
rest of the cast in the
aforementioned groovy
rehearsal.

Lastly, I met with the
mysterious Mr. Bamberger,
played by Manfred Braun. He
felt that Black Comedy was "an
excellent piece as a final hurrah
for us." This is Braun's last year.
Manfred ended our
conversation by emphatically
saying "I'd gladly give it (the
play) 2 thumbs up...gladly
would I give it greater praise,
would but that I possessed more
thumbs."

With that quote, Manfred
left for the groovy rehearsal
place, and presumably grooved
with the rest of the cast.
After this experience, I was
left with a tape recorder filled
with groovy ramblings and an
incredible urge to join the cast in
grooviness.

However, I must be content
in watching the play with the
rest of the audience, where it
will be up to them to give the
play whatever thumb or finger it
deserves.

It was to say the least a good
show. Everyone seemed to be
having a good time even though
I was the only one dancing. It
wasn't until the band slipped
into some older tunes that the
rest of the crowd got into the
music.

As usual Berg was the only
one in the band to talk to the
audience. He did his usual thing
which is to laugh at other bands
and make jokes about Axl Rose.
What was not usual was that all
5 members of the band remained
sitting during the entire show.
Not really sitting still but they
still sat. And we finally got to
Continued on page 13...

TPOH Nice and Loose

How do I explain the
experience I had the Thursday
before last at 86 Street. Let's just
say that I had a lot of fun and
enjoyed myself immensely but
that I still blush when teased
about what happened.

"So," you ask "what is all this
leading up to?"
Well has there ever been
someone that you really admire
and when you finally get to meet
them you make a complete ass of
yourself? Well that's what
happened to me.

The Pursuit of Happiness
Music 91 Production
86 Street Music Hall
February 28
reviewed by Marion Drakos

I walk in to 86 Street to see
the already small dance floor
covered with tables. I guessed
they weren't kidding when they
said this was an "acoustic " set.
When I go see TPOH I expect
people dancing their brains out
not mellowness- well I got
mellowness.

The stage was really simple.
Just 5 chairs at the front. The

band filed out one by one and
started playing. It felt close, it
felt a little odd but it also felt
right.

"Ditties in Progress" is what
singer/guitarist Moe Berg called
the set which featured mostly

new material. Of course it was
peppered with some older stuff.
For the first time I actually got to
hear them play my favorite song
"Walking in the Woods." They
still didn't play "Consciousness
Raising as a Social Tool" though.



TPOH: Like greasy fried noodles two weeks ago

photo by Marion Drakos

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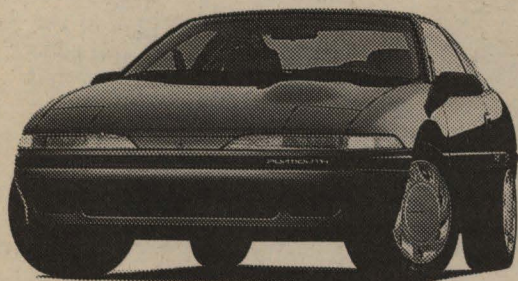
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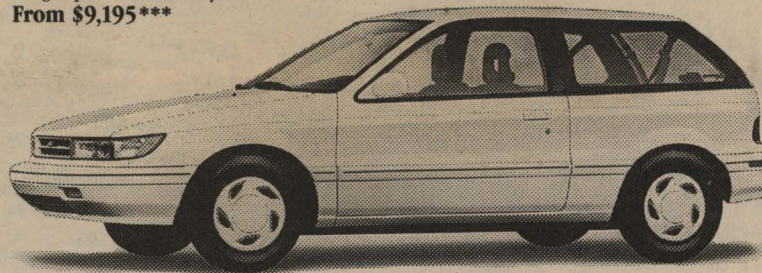
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Other Arts and Review

Blue Eyed Soul Comes To Vancouver

Pleasant and melodic, Pop's most successful duo, Hall and Oates are coming to Vancouver. Known for such hits as "One on One", "Private Eyes" and "Out of Touch", they are currently touring in support of their new album *Change of Season*. So far this album has sprung two hits "So Close" and "Don't Hold Back Your Love."

Hall and Oates
Queen Elizabeth Theatre
April 12, 1991
review by Krista Solie

Daryl Hall and John Oates have been together since the late sixties. First playing folk, they gradually melded this interest, plus rock and soul into their distinctive sound. During the mid-seventies they had become potential superstars with their hits "She's Gone" and "Sara Smile". By the early Eighties

they had fulfilled this promise with "Kiss on my List" and "Did it in a Minute". Extremely successful, they performed at the concert of the eighties, *Live Aid*. While also contributing to "Sun City" the famous anti-apartheid composition. And in a show of true acceptance by soul musicians, they performed at the legendary Apollo Theatre with their heroes, two of the original Temptations, Eddie Kendricks and Dave Ruffin.

Now in the nineties, Hall and Oates still continue to be superstars. They are trying a unique twist on this tour, as it is completely acoustical. No loud thunderous guitar solos during this tour, but instead an emphasis on their strong harmonizing in the intimate setting of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

hear how good of a singer Lease Stanwick is when they did a cover of "Material Girl."

Another item of interest was one of the other covers they performed that evening. "Now let's play some real rock!" Berg shouted as they burst into "Wasn't that a Party." That was almost as good as when I saw Sting do "Home on the Range."

Like I said it was a good show but not exactly flawless. During one of the new songs, a ballad yet, there was an explosion. Berg was trying to keep singing but he was also laughing. When the song was finally over he yelled "What the hell was that?" Still laughing he explained that they had this wonderful idea of using flashbombs to liven up their acoustic set it was too bad that they went off in the wrong song.

Other unintentional funny bits were Berg forgetting the lyrics to both "Beautiful White" and "I'm an Adult Now." The first time he had to get a prompt from Stanwick. The second time he forgot the middle of a verse and just yelled out "Oh you know how it goes!"

TPOH

Continued from page 11.

Savage Love Romantic

This play should have been mandatory viewing for anyone in love, who was in love or foolish enough to want to be in love. The large cast explore nearly every emotion known in romance. Watching the play is like looking through a photo album of emotions and the effect is more prominent for those that have already experienced love.

Savage Love
Written by Sam Shepard + Joseph Chalkin
Directed by Christine Menzies
Lighting by Kirsten Smith
reviewed by Nell Art

People who want to experience love are introduced to all the pitfalls as well as the marvellous aspects.

The distractions were the only drawbacks to the performance. People entering and exiting through a clanky door during the performance were annoying but were unable to mar the overall performance. *Savage Love* successfully related romantic relationships to the audience and the end was powerfully moving.

Ed's note. and unabashed plug--- Since you've all missed this fine play, why don't you watch *Black Comedy*, see story in this issue. Don't miss out. Also watch for *The Bacchae*, coming soon.

Continued from page four of the LGB Supplement.

crushes on some of the guys. What I did was suppress my urges. I went out with some girls only for appearances. They never knew, and usually the relationship ended in disaster; for both of us.

Today, I am a little more comfortable with myself and

this subject. That is why I have been able to put my thoughts down on paper. Also because I want to change things. I should be able have a relationship with anyone I want, regardless of gender. And I should be able to do so without being afraid of discrimination, or violence or rejection by my peers.

Primal Cray

The Robert Cray Band is coming to town---finally.

The band was supposed to be here way back in January, but the massive amounts of snow that was dumped on our fair city prevented them from getting here. Now the long wait is over and the band is blowing into town to infuse the gentle surroundings of the Q.E. with the power of the blues.

The Seattle based bluesman has played with all the greats, from the legendary Muddy Waters, and B.B. King to the late-great Stevie Ray Vaughn, with whom he shared the stage with during his last gig.

The Robert Cray Band
Featuring The Memphis Horns
Queen Elizabeth Theatre
Sun. March 17th
reviewed by: Haroon A. Khan

Like Vaughn and Eric Clapton. Cray is a guitar hero. who plays in his own inimitable style. He plays primal Delta Blues with the emotional intensity of Robert Johnson, mixing it with the unmistakable groove that his band adds, resulting in a potent brew that explodes when playing live.

The band is also touring with the Memphis Horns, who promise to fuel the show with its own brand of trademark horns, complementing the smoking guitar virtuosity of Cray.

Expect choice cuts from "Strong Persuader", his breakthrough album, and the newer "Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark" and "Midnight Stroll".

So stroll on down the the Q.E. for a night of the blues that only The Robert Cray Band can deliver.



The Robert Cray Band

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WHAT BEER'S ALL ABOUT